



CG's Golf Scramble draws out duffers, see Page 1C



My Soldier and Me Ball gives families chance to bond, see Page 1B

Motorcycle safety course Feb. 6-8, see Briefs, Page 6A

3rd BCT trains to fight at NTC, see Page 3A



Keeping their memory alive



The family, friends and peers of Staff Sgt. John Hartman Jr. gather in his honor during a tree dedication Jan. 18 at Fort Stewart's Warriors Walk. Hartman's son, Steven, kneels at the tree memorializing his father. See Page 5A for story.

3rd Sustainment Bde changes top NCOs

Master Sgt. Rodney Williams
3rd Sust. Bde. PAO

The 3rd Sustainment Brigade held a change of responsibility ceremony Jan. 11 at Marne Gardens.

The ceremony marked the departure of Command Sgt. Major Edward Brooks, and the incoming of Command Sgt. Maj. Clifton H. Johnson as the brigade's command sergeant major.

"Command Sergeant Major Brooks is the finest non-commissioned officer I have ever known," said Col. Darrell Williams, 3rd Sustainment Bde. commander, during his ceremonial speech. "You leave behind a legacy of selfless service and professionalism most would find difficult to match and even fewer to exceed."

Brooks was previously assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division prior to becoming the command sergeant major of the 3rd Sustainment Bde. (formerly known as Division Support Brigade). He was the brigade's first command sergeant major under its present modular design.

"This is an extremely busy time with units deploying and training for future deployments," Brooks said to audience members attending the ceremony. "Make no mistake about it; no task or mission can be completed see COR ————— Page 5A



Master Sgt. Eric Magee

Brig. Gen. Edward Cardon, 3rd Inf. Div. assistant commander – support, presents CSM Edward Brooks, outgoing 3rd Sustainment Bde. command sergeant major, with his Permanent Change of Station award during a change of responsibility ceremony Jan. 11 at Marne Garden.

Last 1st BCT battalion says goodbye, boards plane for Iraq



Kurt Wolfe

As Soldiers make their way across the tarmac at Hunter's Truscott Air Terminal Jan. 16, they are applauded by USO and Red Cross volunteers.

Kurt Wolfe
Hunter Public Affairs

Nearly 2,000 Soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team deployed Jan. 16.

The last flight left at about midnight to complete the deployment of the 4,000-Soldier-strong fighting force back to Iraq. This is the unit's third deployment in four years.

Now in Kuwait, they are drawing their weapons systems and conducting the last phase of their training before moving north into Iraq's Al Anbar Province. There they will assume battle positions.

This deployment is the culmination of months of intensive classroom and field training for those of the fighting "Raiders."

Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery Regiment have expressed great confidence in the training they received at Fort Stewart, and at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

Included were first-hand cultural sensitivity classes and maneuvers in which several Iraqi nationals were enacted role-playing situations for the purpose of cultural training.

This may have been the unit's third deployment, but it was the first for many Soldiers like Spc. Shannon N. Prewitt, a counter-terrorism specialist with Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade Combat Team.

"This may be my first deployment, but I'm confident that I'm as well prepared as possible," said Prewitt.

Loaded down with gear that all but matched her own weight, she and her battle buddy, Spc. Andrew Mullins, HHC, 1st BCT, also a counter-terrorism specialist, waited along with several hundred other Soldiers at Hunter Army Airfield's Truscott Air Terminal. Volunteers from the USO and the Red Cross provided food, gifts, reading materials and expressions of gratitude for Soldiers to take on the long flight that would eventually end up in Kuwait.

For Prewitt, the day was a special day in more ways than one.

"Today is my four-year anniversary in the Army," Prewitt said. "So I've been ready for a long, long time for this mission." It has been almost non-stop training for Prewitt. "We went to the field a lot when I was in a support group for a year in Germany."

Instrumental to that preparation, however, were the experiences shared with her by Soldiers for whom this was a second or even third deployment.

"Soldiers who have previously been deployed around me are critical," she acknowledges. "Through them I have gained knowledge that I couldn't have found anywhere else. I can ask them anything — I mean anything. You can get really nervous wherever

see DEPLOY ————— Page 5A

Marne 6 Sends

Stay safe, focused while preparing for deployment

Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch
3rd Inf. Div. commanding general

Many of you have heard the phrase "We are a nation at war."

As we move forward in 2007, there is no doubt that we are on the glide path for combat operations.

During the past three weeks, more than 3,300 1st Brigade Combat Team Soldiers deployed to Iraq. The 3rd BCT deployed to the National Training Center to conduct their Mission Rehearsal Exercise, and 2nd BCT completed the Leader Training Program for its upcoming NTC rotation and is now preparing for Spartan Focus. The 4th BCT kicked off gunnery after the holiday half-day schedule ended.

Both the Combat Aviation Brigade and 3rd Sustainment Brigade already have units deployed and are both preparing for combat through NTC rotations and other missions.

Currently, about 50 percent of the division's Soldiers are deployed in support of stateside and overseas operations.

During this busy time, we also received notification that the deployment timelines for 2nd and 3rd BCT would be affected by President Bush's plus-up announcement.

The key word over the next couple of months is "flexibility."

Even as we press on with preparations for victory in Iraq, there will be changes up to the last minute. Soldiers and family members need to have patience as the Army works through issues concerning training for deployments, deployment timelines, and deployment locations.

No final decisions have been made in regard to some of these issues, but I can assure you that we will not rush to failure. We will only send Marne Soldiers to combat who are properly trained and properly equipped.

The division recently published important information pertaining to the stop loss/ stop movement of Marne Soldiers.

These messages apply to Soldiers who are assigned to units that have been alerted or may be alerted to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom.

Stop loss and stop movement are not the same thing. Stop movement is the suspen-



sion of Permanent Change of Station moves of Soldiers, whereas stop loss is the suspension of voluntary separation from service.

The Army issues these orders to maintain unit readiness, cohesion and stability. Soldiers should contact their unit personnel offices for additional information.

For some Soldiers of the division, weekends of travel may be a memory of the past.

Training schedules for units will be tight up until the day of deployment. Time is short, so remain mission-focused — leaders need to take care of their Soldiers and all Soldiers need to take care of their buddies.

As always, I encourage Soldiers to invest as much time as they can with their loved ones during down time.

The rear detachment of 1st BCT is up and running and other deploying units should look to reap the benefits of their lessons learned.

Rear detachments may be small in number, but still have important missions that range from preparing Soldiers to deploy,

maintaining equipment accountability and helping resolve family problems in the rear.

In the upcoming months, Soldiers and families should make use of the family readiness group system that has been established — they will guide you in the right direction and give you the correct information.

Rear detachments and FRGs are the core of our home front support system when we are deployed.

As of Monday, the division reached 120 days without a Fatal Accident — a mark that is difficult for a division of more than 20,000 Soldiers to achieve.

I applaud Marne Soldiers for their individual contributions and efforts toward achieving this goal, and I urge you to continue this commitment to safety in the upcoming months.

We will continue to see the departures of thousands of more Soldiers from Fort Stewart, Hunter Army Airfield and Fort Benning in the coming months.

We will climb aboard planes knowing each and every Marne Soldier is competent and confident in the skills they have to complete the difficult tasks ahead.

ROCK OF THE MARNE!

This week in Marne history

Courage and honor ...

Private First Class Jose F. Valdez

Sasha McBrayer
Fort Stewart Museum

The Medal of Honor was bestowed upon Jose F. Valdez, a PFC from Governador, New Mexico for his actions Jan. 25, 1945 at Rosenkrantz, France, during World War II.

The Marne Soldier belonged to Company B, 7th Infantry, 3rd Infantry Division.

His citation reads as follows:

"He was on outpost duty with five others when the enemy counter attacked with overwhelming strength. From his position near some woods 500 yards beyond the American lines he observed a hostile tank about 75 yards away, and raked it with automatic rifle fire until it withdrew.

"Soon afterward he saw three Germans stealthily approaching through the woods. Scorning cover as the enemy soldiers opened up with heavy automatic weapons fire from a range of 30 yards, he engaged in a fire fight with the attackers until he had killed all three. The enemy quickly launched an attack with two full companies of infantrymen, blasting the patrol with murderous concentrations of automatic and rifle fire and beginning an encircling movement which forced the patrol leader to order a withdrawal.

"Despite the terrible odds, Valdez immediately volunteered to cover the maneuver, and as the patrol one by one plunged through a hail of bullets toward the American lines, he fired burst after burst into the swarming enemy. Three of his companions were wounded in their dash for safety and he was struck by a bullet that entered his stomach and, passing through his body, emerged from his back.

"Overcoming agonizing pain, he regained control of himself and resumed his firing position, delivering a protective

screen of bullets until all others of the patrol were safe. By field telephone he called for artillery and mortar fire on the Germans and corrected the range until he had shells falling within 50 yards of his position.

"For 15 minutes he refused to be dislodged by more than 200 of the enemy; then, seeing that the barrage had broken the counter attack, he dragged himself back to his own lines. He died later as a result of his wounds.

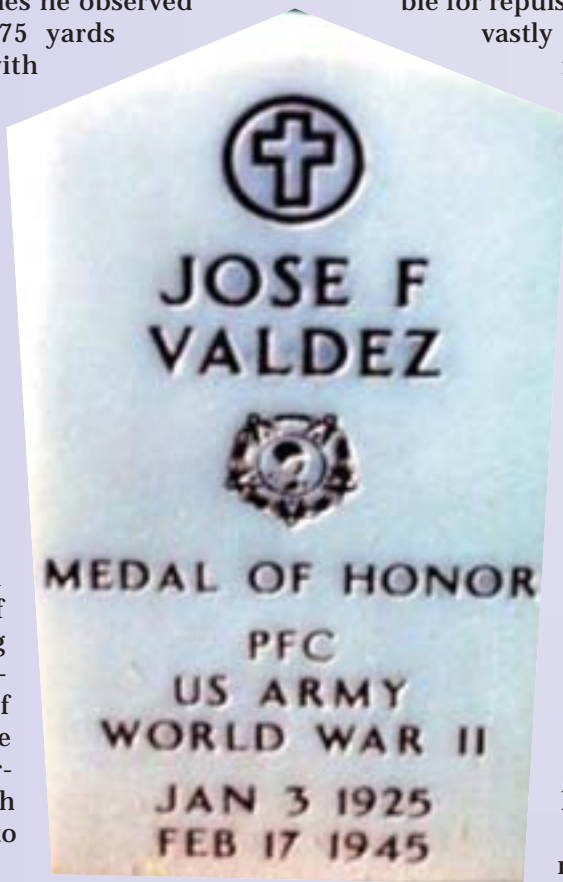
"Through his valiant, intrepid stand and at the cost of his own life, Valdez made it possible for his comrades to escape, and was directly responsible for repulsing an attack by vastly superior enemy forces."

After World War II a technical research ship was renamed in honor of Valdez. USNS PVT Jose F. Valdez (T-AG-169) was acquired by the Navy in August 1961, and by that November was leaving her homeport of Brooklyn, N.Y., for extended cruises through the South Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

Garnering nicknames like, the "Happy

Jose", the "Galloping Ghost of the Ivory Coast", and "Grey Ghost of the African Coast," the vessel made annual visits to Africa. She made her final deployment in 1969, but returned home soon after, as by 1970 all of the Technical Research Fleet was inactivated.

Jose Valdez, who was killed in action at age 20, was laid to rest at the Santa Fe National Cemetery in New Mexico. A stretch of Highway 64 in San Juan County, the Valdez Memorial Highway, further honors this 3rd Inf. Div. hero.





Spc. Ben Hutto

Fire Support Team troopers from B Troop, 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, conduct a fire mission Saturday at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif.

3rd BCT continues combat training at NTC

Sgt. Natalie Rostek
3rd BCT PAO

FORT IRWIN, Calif. — Close to two months after 3rd Brigade Combat Team completed a vigorous 30-day training exercise, Hammer Focus, Sledgehammer Soldiers geared up and shipped out for their second stage of training Jan. 15 at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Ca.

Approximately 30 days are dedicated to tough and rigorous training in rough conditions.

After a five-hour plane ride, Soldiers were brought to Victorville, Ca., then bussed to Irwin's Camp Warrior. This is a camp designed to simulate a staging area on a deployment to Iraq.

"This is true to form," said Capt. Drew Staples, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery. "This is exactly what the Soldiers will encounter when they first arrive in Camp Buering, Kuwait."

The camp is complete with a PX, barber shop, food stands, laundry facility and a Soldier-run chow hall and aid station.

Soldiers are instructed to regard Camp Warrior as though they are on a base in Iraq and act accordingly. This includes pulling guard on each entrance gate as well as towers located on the perimeter of the Camp.

Temperatures range from an average of 57 degrees Fahrenheit during the daytime to

below-freezing at night, making acclimatizing to the weather difficult.

"During the day it's warm, so I feel better going to the PX or getting chow," said Spc. Sharonda Lewis, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd BCT. "At night it's just too cold to go out and do anything."

For many Soldiers, this is their first deployment to NTC and they are finding the accommodations to be less than comfortable, but are still able to adapt.

"The sleeping conditions aren't too bad," said Pvt. Shemika Walker, Company B, 203rd Brigade Support Battalion. "They are little areas but there is nothing we can do about that. I would like if the showers would stay on by themselves without having to keep pushing the knob."

Those seasoned vets who have been deployed to NTC with the Sledgehammer Brigade prior to Operation Iraqi Freedom III find an improvement to the previous accommodations.

"Last time (at NTC) we didn't have these nice tents to sleep in," said Spc. Chris Shelly, a HHT, 3rd BCT fire support specialist who has previously been deployed with 3rd BCT to NTC. "We were sleeping in shelter-halves on the ground outside."

The first week consists of much preparing for the "war games" each unit endures during the following two weeks in what Soldiers call "the box."

Classes on topics such as the Arab culture, rules of engagement, negotiations, escalation of

force and medical training are also held in order to prepare Soldiers for what they may encounter in the box and later in Iraq.

While Soldiers are in the box, they maintain forward operating bases, just as they would in Iraq. Each company conducts training specific to its job. Some training includes combat patrols and interacting with the local population which are role-played by Iraqi-Americans hired for the training. Leaders learn how to engage the local government and religious leaders.

Force-on-force training is also conducted. This is a more traditional way of fighting where large American formations are put against large enemy formations.

Soldiers learn slingload operations where they will rig their equipment to be flown on helicopters, a new training exercise for the Sledgehammer team. According to Shelly, the deployment to NTC prior to OIF III proved to be beneficial and accurate.

"Last time (at NTC) we conducted force on force exercises using equipment similar to laser tag," Shelly said. "If you were hit, your equipment would go off and you would get a casualty card explaining what happened to you like if you were injured, dead or if you could return to duty."

"This is the best team of leaders I have ever had the opportunity to work with," said Col. Wayne Grigsby Jr., 3rd BCT commander. "Upon the completion of NTC, we believe the BCT will be well trained to execute combat operations in

Iraq."

Soldiers in 3rd BCT received the news of an earlier- than-expected deployment date to Iraq shortly after President George W. Bush announced plans Jan. 10 to surge U.S. troops into Iraq.

The 3rd BCT is expected to begin movement in early March, as opposed to the previous expected plans to deploy in May.

With the accelerated deployment date, Sledgehammer Soldiers will find themselves in a dead sprint when returning to Fort Benning Feb. 14.

"As long as we have time to see our families before we go, I won't mind leaving so soon," Walker said. "The earlier we go, the earlier we come home."

"I'm looking forward to going," Shelley said. "Having more time to prepare would be nice, but it's all in the job."

Grigsby assure Soldiers that they will have the opportunity to spend time with what he calls, the "true foundation of the team, the families," as well as to get packed up and ready for deployment.

"The key is not to rush," Grigsby said. "Once you get the attitude that you are hurried, accidents and safety issues occur."

Grigsby encourages Soldiers to continue to do their job, train hard and be prepared for Iraq both physically and mentally.

He said, "The most important resource in the Sledgehammer team and what leads to the teams success is the Sledgehammer Soldier."

Sledgehammer Soldiers receive equipment for NTC exercise

Spc. Ben Hutto
3rd BCT PAO

FORT IRWIN, Calif. — One week before their time "in the box" at the National Training Center located in Fort Irwin, Calif., the vehicles of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team have been modified with the Army's best equipment to maximize the effectiveness of the Marne Soldier's training.

Personnel and equipment were equipped with the Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System and vehicles fitted with Warlock electronic counter-measures, "Duke," surrogate device.

"The whole point of all of this (the equipment) is to train Soldiers in the safest most effective way possible so they come back home safe," said Lynn Brooks, the MILES Division manager here at NTC.

Brooks is no stranger to the Army or the MILES equipment; the former Soldier has been installing the system, in its various forms, at NTC for the last 15 years.

"Of course there are some things we can't simulate, but the system is very realistic and effective," said Brooks. "We can simulate all forms of direct and indirect fire. Using the probability of kills system, we can analyze what sort of damage the vehicle would have taken based on the type of vehicle and what kind of armor it has and use that information to help Soldiers better prepare themselves."

The system is not easy to install. It takes Brooks' team about 20 to 30 minutes to install the system on a vehicle, but the results are worth the wait in Brook's mind.

"Things changed here at NTC

when 507th Maintenance Support Battalion got hit over in Iraq," Brooks recalled. "When we used to train here at NTC, we just worried about the tanks and Bradleys and forgot about the stuff back here in the rear. Soldiers that do the cooking, maintenance and whatever their job was and we didn't worry about them or put MILES on those guys. When that happened, we changed the way we trained because everyone is susceptible to IEDs, direct fire engagements and mortar fire engagements."

"Because the only name they (the enemy) care about hitting is a vehicle with USA written on it," he said.

Brooks cautions Soldiers to take the training seriously.

"Don't take for granted when your MILES goes off that there isn't blood on the floor," Brooks warned. "Did you do something wrong? Did you

fail to follow all the steps of engagement prior to getting engaged? It's important to use this training to keep yourself safe and make yourself better. Just because its not real now doesn't mean it won't be over there."

The 3rd Infantry Division isn't just another group of Soldiers to Brooks and his team. The Marne patch is highly thought of by the MILES installers.

"I've got a lot of close friends in every brigade of the 3rd Infantry Division," reflects Brooks. "We've followed them on the news since the beginning of this war. We watched them push into Baghdad, going over bridges, clearing hotels, and it took a lot out of us to see a lot of the guys we had trained show up on the casualty list. You guys are like family to us. You were the first ones to leave here and push into Baghdad. 3rd Inf. Div., more than any of the other divisions, we kept up with on the TV here at the MILES Training Center. We'd talk to each other in the mornings, '1st Brigade is doing this,' and '3rd Brigade is doing that,' or '2nd Brigade is here,' because you guys had all just left here. I'm sure it will be the same way this time around as well."

Brooks and his team weren't the only group getting the Sledgehammer Brigade's vehicles ready for their upcoming training exercise. The IAP World Service installers spent many hours making sure that the Marne vehicles were uploaded with the newest Warlock simulators.

Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Carruthers, of the 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry

Regiment, was the NCOIC for the Warlock installation and wanted Soldiers to understand that the Warlock system they will be using "in the box" is the most recent and advanced Warlock system the Army has.

"The Duke system is much better than the previous system," Carruthers said.

Carruthers pointed out that the previous system offered about 75 percent coverage. The Duke system offers 100 percent coverage. The new system only takes about 45 minutes to install, but is much more sturdy.

"The fact is that it is easier to use and much more effective," Carruthers said.

This will be the first time the Duke Warlock system will be used at NTC.

An added benefit to the new system is that it provides after action feedback.

"After missions, crews can download the data from that mission and they can see what type of threats they are facing and adjust their strategies accordingly," said Stephen Peters, an installation unit technician.

"The most important thing is that it will save lives," Carruthers added.

Uploaded with the newest training equipment, the 3rd BCT hopes to excel here at the National Training Center. The main goal, however, is to carry what they will learn here into their next deployment.

"Training is important," said Peters. "Hopefully Soldiers can take something they learned or practiced here and use it to protect their lives. That is our main goal."



Spc. Ben Hutto

A 3rd BCT Soldier from 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, ground-guides a Bradley Fighting Vehicle before heading to "the box" at Fort Irwin, Ca.

Good Soldiers don't fade away, they leave legacies

Pat Young
Frontline Staff

Watching Soldiers prepare for deployment, I see today's men and women in uniform carrying out their duties with professionalism and dedication. I know they have their own concerns like finances, training and family matters, yet I notice they carry on with true professionalism. Being a retired Soldier myself who served in a relative time of peace, I wonder how these heroes are created. I believe its three-fold -- character, role-

models, and training. Earlier in the month, I had the opportunity to say goodbye to one of the Army's heroes on the occasion of his retirement, Sergeant Major Michael David, adjutant sergeant major for Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield. David is made of the same stuff as these modern Warriors. In his 30-year career, he served as leader, trainer and role model. But like so many of the younger generation, I believe he had a strong foun-



He was raised in South Street Projects, an area, he said was commonly known as the ghetto -- where you entered at your own risk. Overcoming the streets, he attended Mount Bethel Baptist Church while growing up in Daytona Beach. He kept busy during school and played sports throughout school. He played football, basketball, lifted weights and was a member of the cross-country track team. Young David, through the loving encouragement from his mother, and the strong desire to succeed in life, joined the Army under the delayed entry program on December 16, 1976.

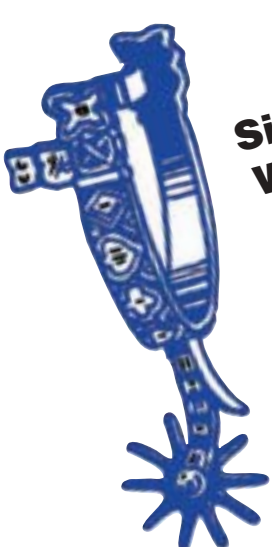
In his 30-year service, Sergeant Major David has traveled extensively throughout the continental United States and overseas and culminated his career at Fort Stewart. Although he officially retires Feb. 28, his legacy of leading, training and serving as a role model will remain. A farewell for the retiring Sergeant Major Jan. 11 at Building 13302 at the culinary arts building in the National Guard Training Area demonstrated his impact on his co-workers and friends. The event was well attended by friends, family, co-workers, and members of the local community. Special guest at the ceremony was Pastor Aaron Coward, the Senior Pastor of Live Oak Church of God in Hinesville. Gary Blake, David's first cousin who is an engineer for Delphia auto parts in Detroit, MI was also present. "We grew up together, and he was instrumental in me joining the Army over 30 years ago." In addition, his fellow church members from Bethel Baptist Church in Savannah was there. It is apparent that Sergeant Major David is well thought of. His contributions will be remembered. As the Sergeant Major departs, I see images in his likeness. Like David, I see that professionalism, dedication and selfless service remain a strong characteristic in today's Army.



Diane Johnson
Sergeant Major Michael David, Adjutant Sergeant Major for Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield receives a farewell gift Jan. 11 during a retirement party from Garrison Command Sergeant Major Durr at the Culinary Arts Building (13302) in the National Guard Training Area.

Wild Wild West Night

Pre-Sale tickets \$5.00
at Club Stewart,
Shop of the Marne,
and Goldmender (Hinesville)



Silent & Live Auction
Western card games
Line Dancing



18 years & older
Any questions please call D'Lyn Hardy at
368-8762 or Paula Payne at 368-8890

Saturday, Feb. 3
Club Stewart
6:30 to 10:30 p.m.
Buffet available for an additional charge
Cost \$7 at the door
Pre-sale tickets \$5

2 Grand Prizes
\$200 gift card
donated by AAFES

Marne Voices Speak Out

What will you miss with the upcoming deployments?

"I'm going to miss my mom."

Pvt. Tavoris Fisher
A Co, 1/64 Armor



"I'm going to miss my daughter, because I'm going to miss a lot of the milestones of her first year."

Spc. Rebecka Reyes
HHOC, STB



"I'm going to miss my family and church, Temple of Praise."

Staff Sgt. Tara Williams
HHSC STB



"I'm going to miss my girlfriend, the Internet and being around home in New York."

Pvt. Westley Eng
A Co., 1/64



"I'm going to miss all the great Marne Soldiers that have come through the office. I hope they all come back safe and sound."

Anthony Horton
DPTMS training instructor



"I'm going to miss the same thing I miss now, California."

Pvt. Ezra Bermudez
D Co., 4/64 Armor



**Voice your
opinion!**
**Write a letter to
the editor!**

Send to:
Public Affairs Office
Attn: The Frontline, Editor
894 William H. Wilson Ave.
Building 600C
Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314-4941
or fax it to 912-767-9366.

The Frontline

894 William H. Wilson Ave.
Bldg. 600C, Ft. Stewart
Hinesville, Ga. 31314

© 2006

ADVERTISING: (912) 368-0526
THE Frontline OFFICE: 767-5669

This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the **Frontline** are not necessarily the official views of, or are endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or U.S. Forces Command. It is published weekly by the Public Affairs

3RD INFANTRY DIVISION COMMANDER MAJ. GEN. RICK LYNCH
GARRISON COMMANDER COL. TODD A. BUCHS
3rd Inf. Div. PAO — Lt. Col. Randy Martin
3rd Inf. Div. NCOIC — Master Sgt. David Abrams
3rd Inf. Div. Ops — Staff Sgt. Craig Zentkovich
1st Bde. NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Raymond Piper
1st Bde. — Spc. Ricardo Branch
2nd Bde. NCOIC — Sgt. Lina Satele
2nd Bde. — Private Blanton Rosenau
4th Bde. — Spc. Dan Balda
Avn. Bde. NCOIC — Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Mills
3rd Sust. Bde. NCOIC — Master Sgt. Rodney Williams
3rd Sust. Bde. — Sgt. Lorenda Morris
Garrison PAO — Richard Olson
Command Information officer — Jim Jeffcoat
Editorial/Design Staff
Managing Editor — Pat Young
Staff Assistant - Jennifer Wingfield
Staff Writer — Sgt. Ben Brody
Staff Writer — Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft
Graphic Design Specialist —Spc. Marques Hunt
Production Manager — Sherron Walker
Advertising Mgr. — Jessa Kajencki
Hunter Army Airfield Public Affairs
Hunter Army Airfield PAO — Steven Hart
Assistant PAO — Nancy Gould
Department of the Army, under exclusive written contract with Fort Stewart, Georgia. The civilian printer is responsible for commercial advertising. Subscription rates ar \$9 - 3 months, \$16 - six months and \$30 for 12 months. Rates are Third Class mail inside the continental U.S.

A Battle King remembered at Warriors Walk

Pat Young
Frontline Staff

The skies appeared to weep on a cold rainy morning Jan 18 as Soldiers, family and friends of Staff Sgt. John Hartman Jr., B Battery, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, gathered at Fort Stewart's Warriors Walk for a tree dedication ceremony in his honor.

An Eastern Redbud tree, and a granite stone with his name engraved was placed at the walk in memory of the 39-year-old native of Florida, whose 16 years of active military service ended with him giving his life during the Global War on Terrorism.

Hartman died Nov. 30 from injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his humvee during combat operations in Iraq.

"I'm humbled to speak here of a great person, a great Soldier and great leader," said Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, 3rd Infantry Division commanding general.

Lynch said Hartman embraced the Army values in particular selfless service. He shared with the audience the depth of Hartman's commitment.

"He (Hartman) spent his career as a field artilleryman. He deployed to operation Iraqi Freedom I and III," Lynch said as he paused to emphasize Hartman's third deployment. "John volunteered for a third combat tour in

Iraq and deployed in July 2006 as a Military trainer for the Iraqi Army. He volunteered to take the place of a fellow sergeant, to allow his comrade to move to Fort Sill to spend time with his newborn son."

Lynch's sentiments about Hartman's spirit were echoed by his friends and co-workers.

"Staff Sergeant Hartman was one of the chiefs when I got here in 2000," said Staff Sgt. Ernesto Camacho, howitzer section chief for B Btry., 1/9 FA. "He never hesitated to do any job or any mission. He always volunteered to accomplish the mission."

Camacho said Hartman helped others and

shared his knowledge and the experience, which earned him the title of Battalion Top Gun. Camacho's heartfelt comments were shared by many of the Soldiers who came to say farewell to their friend and comrade.

"He could get anything done. If you needed help, he was quick to volunteer. He was a good man," said Sgt. Thomas Brown, B Battery, 1-9 FA. "When I first got here in 2002. I was assigned to ammo

section. He helped us straighten out the ammo for the rest of the guns. When I was assigned to the gun-line, he kind of mentored me on the howitzers and FASVs."

Camacho told how Hartman and he worked together in Iraq, and how they shared the desire to contribute against the Global War on Terrorism.

"He was a dear friend of mine," Camacho

said. "I had the honor to go out there and patrol with him. We ended up patrolling the same shifts sometimes.

"We did seizures with him (Hartman)," Camacho said. "We did a lot of raids and four-man stacks. We seized a lot of ammunition there (in Iraq). I send my condolences to his family. I want them to know he will never be forgotten. He will always be remembered as a great leader."

Lynch said it was on a joint Iraqi/U.S. mission that Hartman made the ultimate sacrifice. A mission he most likely went on because there was room for one more Soldier.

"This indeed a hallowed place — here stand 318 living monuments," Lynch said. "We leaders in the division and the Soldiers routinely come to this hallowed place to remember our fallen comrades. It strengthens our resolved to continue as a nation in their memory to fight this global war on terrorism. Warriors walk honors their courage and their love."

Staff Sgt. Hartman is survived by his brother Jared, his sister Jennifer Schueller, his father John Sr., daughter Victoria and son Steven.



Jimmy McSalters

COR ————— From Page 1A

without the competent, dedicated and motivated Soldiers within the 3rd Sustainment Brigade who volunteer to serve during this time of uncertainty."

"I'm convinced that the depth of the Noncommissioned Officer Corps bench within our Army is a major reason for its greatness," Williams added. "As one great command sergeant major departs, another one takes his place. That clearly applies today with the arrival of Command Sergeant Major Clifton H. Johnson."

Johnson is no stranger to Fort Stewart or the 3rd Inf. Div. — he was previously assigned to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 26th Brigade Support Battalion as its command sergeant major.

"One thing that I have always known during my military career and that is that I will only be as successful as the Soldiers I have surrounding me," Johnson said. "A good friend once told me that I'm only a giant because I'm standing on the shoulders of some great Soldiers."

One of Johnson's many goals as the 3rd Sust. Bde. command sergeant major is to ensure the brigade is fully ready to answer the nation's call.

"My goal is to ensure that every Soldier's trained in their warrior tasks and drills so that they will be able to fight and survive on the battlefield," he said.

Brooks' next assignment will be as the Proponent Sergeant Major for Ordnance at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

"I'm going to miss the (Brigade) Soldiers. I'm also going to miss the friendship and camaraderie," Brooks said. "Even though I will be a member of TRADOC, I'll always be concerned about their health, welfare and safety."

DEPLOY ————— From Page 1A

you go if it's new, but talking to those who have been there before helps more than you can imagine. I'm not so much nervous now as I am excited."

Prewitt hails from Missouri and leaves behind in the States five brothers and two sisters. "They are all very supportive," she says. "They promised to send me e-mail everyday, so I hope it happens. Iraq is obviously a lot more stressful than Germany. I'm very close to my mom and I'm going to need her support. If she sees this, tell her I love her and my family very much and hope to come home soon, safe and sound."

This is the second deployment for her buddy Spc. Mullins. He expects, however, many differences from his first deployment in 2005.

"We're going to a different province in Iraq — different people and different cultures. It's going to be a whole new experience for us. We've had several cultural classes, dealing with the new provinces we're going to. We want to make sure we don't accidentally offend anybody because of various sensitivi-

ties."

Mullins has worked closely with those like Prewitt who are deploying for the first time.

"We try the best we can to help the new Soldiers prepare," he adds. "I remember the first time I went, and having people around me who had been there before made me more confident and comfortable with my environment. I try to do that now for the new guys."

Despite his experience, Mullins is anything but complacent. "I am more excited than nervous about this deployment as compared to the first one," he notes. "I'm ready to go and do my job."

Mullins is from Lancaster, Calif., where he keeps in close contact with his mother, father and buddies from



Kurt Wolfe

Spcs. Shannon N. Prewitt and Andrew Mullins, HHC, 1st BCT, relax and wait for their flight along with several hundred other 1st BCT Soldiers.

school. "I hope to use email and phone centers as often as possible, hopefully every day. If my family reads this, tell them I miss them all a lot, and I can't wait to get home. I will see them all soon."

Until then, the Soldiers in this last flight of the 1st BCT deployment think back on the last year, time spent with their families — their training, ultimately confident that their duty will come to them as second nature.

Fort Stewart /Hunter Army Airfield Briefs

Stars and Stripes accepting Valentines messages

Stars and Stripes is now hosting free Valentine's Day messages at *Stripes.com* until Jan. 30. The messages, which can include a photo, will be printed in the paper, in the European, Pacific and Middle East editions and they may also be on the *Stripes.com* website on Feb. 14, depending on the number of messages received. This is done free of charge as an annual service to our deployed troops.

ID card section to close for upgrade

The identification card sections at Fort Stewart (Soldier Service Center and Mower Processing Center) plus the ID Card Section at Hunter Army Airfield will close March 26-27 for a system upgrade. For more information, call 767-4909.

Looking for Tax Center volunteers

In preparation for the 2006 Tax Season, the Tax Centers are looking for volunteers to staff the VITA Tax Centers at Fort Stewart/HAAE. This opportunity can provide good training and experience for future jobs. For more information, call 767-1055.

Town Hall Meeting slated for Stewart, Hunter

The monthly combined Ft. Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Town Hall meeting will be held Feb. 6. Hunter participants may attend the meeting at Club Stewart (at Ft. Stewart), or participate via live, video tele-conferencing at the Hunter Club. The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Stewart Briefs

Free Soldier Swimming Lessons offered

Sign up now for swimming lessons at Newman Pool on Mondays and Thursdays. Only four Soldiers allowed per class. For more information or to register, call 767-3034.

Vehicle registration office Moves to 253

The Vehicle Registration Office has moved to Room 2064A, Building 253 on Pony Soldier Road.

PWOC Meets Wednesdays at Vale Chapel

Protestant Women of the Chapel meetings will be moving to Wednesdays in January. The group meets 9:30 a.m. to noon at Vale Chapel.

Spring semester will begin with fellowship and celebration and all new Bible studies. For more information, call Tammy Owens at 448-2296.

Traffic alert for Highways 119, 144 travelers

Motorists are encouraged to use caution while driving on Fort Stewart, specifically Georgia Highways 119 and 144.

Due to increased training through Feb. 12, motorists are urged to use extra caution and be aware of possible vehicle and Soldier road crossings.

Mental health services focus group to meet

Active-duty military and spouses now have the opportunity to participate in a mental health services focus group. We want to know what you think about the various mental health services available on your installation.

Discussion groups meet on Fort Stewart: Jan. 24 and 25, noon to 1 p.m.; Hunter Army Airfield: Wednesday, 5-6 p.m.

For more information, to include location, please e-mail sara.bentley@bearingpoint.com or call Sara Bentley at 703-747-3599 or 412-848-6323.

Hunter Briefs

Join the fun during CAB Falcon Week

Falcon Week is coming in March. The Combat Aviation Brigade will hold a three-day Falcon Week, starting March 13.

The festivities will include a triathlon, softball, bowling and basketball tournaments, and a golf scramble during the first two days.

The event will culminate at 6 p.m. March 15 with the CAB's Spring Ball at the Marriott Savannah River-front Hotel. Contact the CAB personnel officer for more information at 315-3755.

Some civilians authorized to use DFACs

Department of Defense and Department of the Army civilians and contractor employees are now authorized to eat in Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield installation dining facilities while in a duty status.

Civilians are not permitted to bring family members or guests. Lunch and dinner are \$3.65 each and breakfast is \$2.

The dining facility operating hours are 6:30 to 8:30 a.m. for breakfast, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for lunch and 5-6:30 p.m. for dinner.

Hunter Tax Center ready to serve

A dedicated and trained staff is ready to prepare and file your tax return at no charge.

Soldiers, Soldier's family members and retirees are eligible for this service. Your tax return will be filed electronically and you will receive your refund within approximately seven to ten days.

The Tax Center opens to serve you on Feb. 5, and remains open through April 16. The Hunter Tax Center is located at building 1211 (Hunter Legal Center). Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

For further information, contact the Hunter Tax Center at (912) 315-3675

Motorcycle safety course schedule announced

A Motorcycle Safety Course will be offered at Hunter Army Airfield on Feb. 6, 7 and 8.

For further information and registration requirements, please contact (912) 767-7893.

Hunter Spouses' Club invites community

Wine, dine and dance at the Hunter Spouses' Club Luncheon on Feb. 13, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Hunter Club. Enjoy an Italian meal topped off with chocolate covered cherries for dessert.

Local wine vendors will be present to provide tasting treats while dance instructors teach the art of Salsa dancing. Proceeds go to the Savannah Area Family Emergency Safe Shelter.

Please RSVP to: hunter_spouses_club@yahoo.com, or call (912) 925-1687.

Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum

Experience the story of American air power through powerful personal stories of the men and women of the Eighth Air Force.

In appreciation of the armed services, one free adult ticket will be offered for every adult-purchased ticket for Soldiers and their families through June 30. For more information on this promotion for the military, call (912) 748-8888.



Hunter

Stewart

Scavenger Hunt

Everyone likes a good treasure hunt! Find all of the clues and win a prize 4-5 p.m. Tuesday at New Savannah/New Callaway Community Center.

Pen Pal Club

Come and make a friend for life! Write and receive letters from other kids from all over the country! Join us 4-5 p.m., Jan. 25 at New Savannah/New Callaway Community Center.

For more information, please contact your Lifeworks Coordinator, Amber Humphries, at 912-269-3734.

Movie Trivia

Are you a movie buff? If so, come test out your knowledge with GMH 4-5 p.m., Jan. 29 and join us for some movie fun at Southern Oaks Community Center. Prizes will be awarded.

'Simon Says' Competition

Simon says join GMH for some fun playing a favorite classic childhood game! The event is 3-4 p.m., Jan. 31 at Southern Oaks Community Center. Prizes will be awarded to the last ones standing. For more information, please feel free to contact your Lifeworks Coordinator, Amber Humphries, at 912-210-3250.



Justice Served

Military Justice

Jan. 8, Pfc. Gregory P. Gomer, 3rd Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, convicted at special court-martial; failing to go to his appointed place of duty; reduction to E2, 45 days hard labor without confinement.

Jan. 9, Pvt. James A. Beri, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, convicted at special court-martial; wrongful use of cocaine and marijuana; 60 days confinement, forfeiture of \$500 pay for two months.

Jan. 9, Pvt. Raymond Nix, 1/30 Inf., convicted at general court-martial; failure to obey an lawful order, wrongful use of cocaine, larceny, absent without leave; 15 months confinement, bad-conduct discharge.

Jan. 10, Pvt. Michael M. Harton, 703rd Brigade Support Battalion, convicted at general court-martial; conspiracy to commit robbery, robbery, wrongful use of marijuana; 4 years confinement, dishonorable discharge.

Jan. 11, Pvt. Nathaniel Bell, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, convicted at special court-martial; AWOL, wrongful use of marijuana; 58 days confinement, bad-conduct discharge.

Adverse Administrative Actions

OMPF Filed General Officer Memoranda of Reprimand for DUI Offenses:

Second Lieutenant, 4/3 BTB, BAC .114

Sergeant, 3 SB, refusal

Sergeant, 3-3 AV, BAC .201

Private first class, 3-69 AR, refusal

Private first class, 2/7 Inf., refusal

Private, 3 BSB, BAC .191

Staff Sergeant, 26 BSB, refusal

Private, 1/75 Rgr, refusal

Sergeant, 1/75 Rgr, BAC .152

Specialist, 2/7 Inf., BAC .190

Sergeant, 2/7 Inf., BAC .117

Staff Sergeant, 1/41 FA, BAC .086

Ask the Judge Tax implications of selling your home

Marne Legal Assistance Office

Selling your home is a difficult and stressful process for anyone. Tax matters associated with the sale of a home can be equally stressful, but assistance is available. The Q&A below can be found in its entirety online at www.irs.ustreas.gov.

I sold my home last year. Do I have to report the sale?

Report the sale of your main home on your tax return only if you have a gain and at least part of it is taxable, or you have a gain and choose not to exclude it. Report any taxable gain on Form 1040, Schedule D, Capital Gains and Losses.

I sold my principal residence this year. What form do I need to file?

If you meet the ownership and use tests, you will generally only need to report the sale of your home if your gain is more than \$250,000 (\$500,000 if married filing a joint return). This means that during the five-year period ending on the date of the sale, you must have:

- Owned the home for at least two years (the ownership test), and

- Lived in the home as your main home for at least two years (the use test). If you owned and lived in the property as your main home for less than two years, you may still be able to claim an exclusion in some cases. The maximum amount you can exclude will be reduced. If you are required or choose to report a gain, it is reported on Form 1040, Schedule D Capital Gains and Losses.

If you were on qualified extended duty in the U.S. Armed Services or the Foreign Service you may suspend the five-year test period for up to 10 years. You are on qualified extended duty when:

- At a duty station that is at least 50 miles from the residence sold, or

- When residing under orders in government housing, for more than 90 days or for an indefinite period.

This change applies to home sales after May 6, 1997. You may use this provision for only one property at a time and one sale every two years.

If I sell my home and use the money I receive to pay off the mortgage, do I have to pay taxes on that money?

It is not the money you receive for the sale of your home, but the amount of gain on the sale over your cost, or basis, that determines whether you will have to include any pro-

ceeds as taxable income on your return. You may be able to exclude any gain from income up to a limit of \$250,000 (\$500,000 on a joint return in most cases). If you can exclude all of the gain, you do not need to report the sale on your tax return.

If I take the exclusion of capital gain tax on the sale of my old home this year, can I also take the exclusion again if I sell my new home in the future?

With the exception of the two-year waiting period, there is no limit on the number of times you can exclude the gain on the sale of your principal residence so long as you meet the ownership and use tests.

What is the amount of capital gains from the sale of a home that can be excluded if sold in less than the two year waiting period?

If you owned and lived in the property as your main home for less than two years, you may still be able to claim an exclusion in some cases. The maximum amount you can exclude will be reduced.

You can claim this reduced exclusion if either of the following is true.

(1) You did not meet the ownership and use tests on a home you sold due to:

- health reasons
- a change in place of employment to the extent provided by regulations, unforeseen circumstances. (see below)

(2) Your exclusion would have been disallowed because of the rule on selling more than one home in a two year period, except you sold the home due to:

- health reasons
- a change in place of employment
- to the extent provided by regulations, unforeseen circumstances. (see below)

Use the worksheet in Publication 523, Selling Your Home, to figure your reduced exclusion. The IRS has issued temporary regulations. These regulations provide guidelines for taxpayers with reduced maximum exclusion circumstances. Temp: reg. 1.121-3T (e) details the "unforeseen circumstances" guidelines.

I lived in a home as my principal residence for the first two of the last five years. For the last three years, the home was a rental property before selling it. Can I still avoid the capital gains tax and, if so, how should I deal with the depreciation I took while it was rented out?

If, during the five-year period ending on the date of sale, you owned the home for at least two years and lived in it as your main

home for at least two years, you can exclude up to \$250,000 of the gain (\$500,000 on a joint return in most cases). However, you cannot exclude the portion of the gain equal to depreciation allowed or allowable for periods after May 6, 1997. This gain is reported on Form 4797. If you can show by adequate records or other evidence that the depreciation allowed was less than the amount allowable, the amount you cannot exclude is the amount allowed. Refer to Publication 523, Selling Your Main Home and Form 4797 Sale of Business Property for specifics on calculating and reporting the amount of the eligible exclusion.

Is the loss on the sale of your home deductible?

The loss on the sale of a personal residence is a nondeductible personal loss.

As a result of a bankruptcy, the bank foreclosed on my house. Can you tell me where and how to report this loss on my taxes?

The foreclosure or repossession is treated as a sale or exchange from which you, the borrower, may realize gain or loss. However, if you realize a loss on personal use property, such as your residence, the loss is not deductible. Refer to Publication 544, Sales and other Dispositions of Assets, and Publication 908 Bankruptcy Tax Guide, for more information.

Can we move into our rental property, live there as our main home for two years, and sell it without having to pay capital gains tax?

You may be able to exclude your gain from the sale of your main home that you have also used for business or to produce rental income if you meet the ownership and use tests, detailed in Publication 523, Sale of Your Home.

However, if you were entitled to take depreciation deductions because you used your home for business purposes or as rental property, you cannot exclude the part of your gain equal to any depreciation allowed or allowable as a deduction for periods after May 6, 1997. [Note: If you can show by adequate records or other evidence that the depreciation deduction allowed (did deduct) was less than the amount allowable (could have deducted), the amount you cannot exclude is the smaller of those two figures.]

The gain, exclusion, and depreciation recapture should be reported on Form 1040, Schedule D, Capital Gains and Losses, as described in Publication 523, Selling Your Home.

Equal employment program manager takes proactive approach to discrimination

Jennifer Scales

Public Affairs Specialist

Alberto Crespo, Equal Employment Program Manager for Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, pays attention to the 'rumbling in the weeds' and takes a proactive approach to problems that may arise from issues of race, national origin, age, disability, gender and religion.

Along with his small staff, he takes on the daunting task of servicing a civilian workforce of 4600 at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, which includes tenant units such as Medical Activity, Dental Activity, National Guard, and ROTC personnel. Fortunately, the office is content they do not have issues stemming from all of them.

By the official book, the Equal Employment Opportunity office is responsible for developing, implementing, and administering all EEO civilian functions.

They are also responsible for complaint investigations, affirmation employment programs, program evaluations and acting as principal advisor to and for all activities and the installation commander.

They advise staff and line officials of equal opportunity matters affecting the civilian workforce, job applicants, and the surrounding communities.

"Complaints begin and are initially handled at the lowest level", said Crespo. "There are always stages to complaints with the first being the pre-complaint. Then at the formal stage, though still being at the installation level, an investigation begins with an outside investigator. From this point, it goes into court."

Once the investigation is complete, the complainant referred to now as the aggrieved, gets to make the decision as to whether to continue with an EEO judge and request a hearing or ask Army to make a decision. Because they feel that a judge will listen and have a heart for their plight, most persons opt for a judge.

But throughout the whole EEO complaint process there are always two choices---proceed with complaint or withdraw.

"EEO is not a fast lane", said Crespo. "It is slow so that outcomes can be as accurate as possible. At times a person may come in with a lot of pressure and emotions, and in the long run discover that the issue is not ours. If a person comes in with a letter of reprimand or removal because of job related issues, it is not discrimination." Crespo noted that the only bad thing about EEO is that it is a wide lane and for any reason, persons may submit concerns to him. "That is when they may have to be referred elsewhere for resolution," Crespo said. Some may fall within the purview of civilian personnel, legal, or even management. But the ultimate objective is for resolution at the lowest level.

But if a person feels that they have a discrimination problem that fits into one of the categories, they can contact the EEO office for an appointment and staff will decide

in which applicable category it relates. The EEO office is bound by confidentiality.

Anonymity may be requested, which is granted up to a certain point.

But once the complaint goes into the formal stage, anonymity no longer exists because in order to make a decision, resolution, or funding to pay for the complaint, higher headquarters need to know who is filing the charge along with what it is all about.

Okay. You have made your complaint. So how are you expected to go back and work in your environment?

According to Crespo there are three sides to every story: the individual's, management's, and the truth.

"We will try to get to the truth as much as possible. There is no easy solution. We have had complainants come in crying, hollering, banging on tables...and we let them vent their frustration until they become calm. We have been here at times until 8 p.m. to help them gain their composure or as late as 4 a.m. when working on an investigation," said Crespo. "However long we need to be here for them, some type of closure is sought. All we ask is that a person comes in with an open mind and realize it is not a quick fix, but it can be done."

Contrary to the stereotype, EEO does not cater to the manager or the employee. "We just let the process take its course," said Crespo. "We do have managers that come through our doors also seeking assistance."

Contractors can receive EEO assistance if they are discriminated against by a government employee or supervised by one.

The Special Emphasis Program is under the umbrella of EEO. The Federal Women's Program, Black Employment Program, Hispanic Employment Program, Individuals with Disabilities Program, and the Asian-American Program are open for membership.

New members are always welcome and are open to anyone of any culture. Individuals who wish to join are volunteers and serve on collateral duty. All of these programs are



Jennifer Scales

Alberto Crespo, Fort Stewart - Hunter Army Airfield Equal Employment Program Manager, discusses the complaint process with an aggrieved.

Department of the Army mandated. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month in Building 624.

As with many other directorates, the EEO office has an active outreach program. Right now they are in partnership with Georgia Southern University in bringing Hispanic children to the installations to show them jobs they can do as civilians to support Soldiers and their missions. EEO office also helps the Hinesville Ministerial Alliance when requested.

Before his life became involved in EEO, Crespo spent over 20 years in the military as an infantryman stationed such places as Fort Benning, Fort Jackson, Fort Hood, Germany, and Fort Stewart.

Since March 2003, Crespo has been working in the field of equal employment, but he literally runs away from work when he can. Living in Pooler, a long way from his native home of Ricon, Puerto Rico, he finds time to run eight miles or less and work out in the gym.

Deborah, his wife, is affectionately referred to as Crespo's strongest supporter, his rock, his backbone. Two sons have followed in his footsteps with military careers that have them stationed currently in Japan and Louisiana.

Crespo is dedicated to eliminating barriers that may exist in the workplace at Stewart and Hunter.

"There is power in numbers, and a positive, pro-active workforce can make things happen," said Crespo.

2nd BCT, FRGs prepare Soldiers, families

Private Blanton Rosenau
2nd BCT Public Affairs

The orders are cut, starting the last phase of preparations for the Soldiers to deploy.

The Soldiers trained for months to win battles and survive in hostile territory. While they trained, the Family Readiness Group prepared.

"We are here for the Soldiers and their families to help them prepare and get ready for deployment," said retired Army 1st Sgt. James D. Fleming, FRG Deployment Assistant "One of the things FRG does is coordinate deployment fairs."

Fleming said the Soldiers and their families get the chance to meet with Judge Advocate General, American Red Cross, Finance, and Tri-Care as well as other agencies during the FRG fairs.

It is very important Soldiers meet with these organizations which advise and assist them with powers of attorney, personal finances, benefits, housing and many other things, Fleming said.

"We even offer free child-care during the visit, so Soldiers and family members can get assistance without being distracted," Fleming added.

The FRG groups is available to answer questions and point Soldier and family members in the right direction, Fleming continued.

"For instance, a lot of people don't know that the American Red Cross can help with loan grants," He said. "In certain situations we had advised to consult them."

A lot of information will soon be available online.

"The web-site is almost finished and I will make sure that the information will be distrib-

uted through the FRG leaders," he said.

FRG is a great way for family members to stay updated on events with their deployed spouses, said Karen Brookshire, FRG co-leader of 164 Armor.

"We want the family members to leave us their contact information so we can keep them informed on what is happening overseas," Brookshire said. "We will even update them through e-mail and phone calls if they chose to leave here and stay with their families during the deployment."

Brookshire said the FRG is about support.

"We come together and share concerns and feelings, and most importantly try to have fun and get away from the daily 'same old' for a while," Brookshire said. "We watch movies, play games, meet at someone's house for a Barbecue and even go on field trips. It is really up to them."

What FRG is trying to do, is to help the family members learn how to help each other, Brookshire said.

"We have picked up medication for each other when the person was too sick or had no car to do it," she said. The group helps families needing a ride, car repairs, or child care. Brookshire contends that there is always a good chance that someone in the group will be able to help. He said The key is communication and sharing.

If the FRG can't help, the FRG leaders will advise you where you can get it.

Each brigade has a FRG leader or Advisor, who can be reached for emergencies 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The FRG building is located next to the post exchange and is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday.



Private Blanton Rosenau

Left to right, Timothy Cray, Vickie Wiginton, Bess Stone, Yolanda Parham-Lee and Ten Gibson-Harris stand in front of the FRG building. Their goal is to help and support family members especially during the time their spouses are deployed.

1st BCT FRG Support

1st Brigade Combat Team family support is available at these phone numbers.

FRG 1 BCT

Area Code: 912, DSN Prefix: 870
Staff Duty: 767-7033

Commander's

1 BCT	767-3891
2/7 Inf.	767-3092
3/69 AR	767-4314
5/7 Cav.	767-3395
1/41 FA	767-7205
1/3 BTB	767-1736
3 BSB	767-7144

NCOIC's

1 BCT	767-4828
2/7 Inf.	767-2221
3/69 AR	767-2355
5/7 Cav.	767-3395
1/41 FA	767-5601
1/3 BTB	767-3738
3 BSB	767-2844

FRG Liaison's

1 BCT	767-1432
2/7 Inf.	767-7135
3/69 AR	767-7626
5/7 Cav.	767-9903
1/41 FA	767-1371
1/3 BTB	767-2902
3 BSB	767-9401

Commissaries add registered dietitian to outreach program

Bonnie Powell
DeCA

FORT LEE, Va. — Customers have always been able to find healthy food at healthy savings in their commissary.

They can also find healthy advice, now that the Defense Commissary Agency has a registered dietitian on staff.

"We made a commitment to be the nutritional leader for the military," said Patrick Nixon, DeCA director and chief executive officer. "We're excited to have Major Karen Fauber as the first DeCA dietitian, and we expect this to be a great opportunity for customers to obtain nutrition education through their commissary system."

Having a dietitian on staff is also a growing trend in the commercial grocery industry and more and more consumers indicate they look to grocery stores for nutrition education and guidance. After all, that's where they make most of their food purchase decisions.

DeCA and TRICARE have been partnering for two years on TRICARE's Healthy Choices for Life program, which focuses on the problems of alcohol abuse, tobacco use and obesity in military families.

"Since we are the grocery store of choice for millions of military families, we developed the 'It's Your Choice, Make it Healthy' program to tie into the weight management segment of Healthy Choices," Nixon said.

It's Your Choice does not aim to tell customers what is good or bad, but it does encourage them to think more about their choices.

"Weight management is a topic of primary importance for DoD patient education," said TRICARE

Chief Medical Officer Dr. David Tornberg. "DeCA is making a significant contribution to our program by emphasizing healthier eating, and has taken the effort to a new level by adding a registered dietitian to their team."

Nixon added: "Having a registered dietitian increases our ability to educate customers on how to make healthier meal choices — reading product labels at the commissary, enjoying more fresh fruit and vegetables and leaner meats, and preparing meals at home instead of hitting the fast food drive thru or spending hard-earned money on restaurants."

The DeCA dietitian is already on the job, having filmed a Pentagon Channel segment offering advice on how to shop for foods that will help consumers stick to their New Year's resolutions to lose weight.

"I really appreciate the leadership role commissaries are taking in advocating healthy food choices for military families," said Fauber, "and I am eager to be a part of DeCA's efforts in promoting 'It's Your Choice, Make It Healthy,' and providing nutrition education as part of the commissary benefit."

Fauber has 16 years of service with 10 years as an Army Reserve dietitian and six years active duty, including experience as a certified diabetes educator in Army medical facilities and public health clinics.

She has also developed, coordinated and evaluated health and nutrition programs in Virginia and was the Virginia "5 A Day for Better Health" program coordinator.

Fauber has a bachelor's degree in dietetics from Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, Ga., and a master's degree in education and human development from George Washington University, Washington, D.C. She completed



Courtesy photo

Maj. Karen Fauber is DeCA's new staff dietitian.

her dietetic internship at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio.

Some of the initiatives planned for the DeCA dietitian include an "Ask the Dietitian" feature on the DeCA Web site at <http://www.commissaries.com> and increased visibility for the recently revamped "5 A Day for Better Health" program, which focuses on fruits and vegetables.

Fauber will also work closely with DeCA home economist and Europe outreach specialist Kay Blakley, who is well-known for her "Kay's Kitchen" newspaper columns and recipes, and TV spots on American Forces Network in Europe.

RELIC HUNTERS BEWARE!

DPW Press Release

The Archeological Resources and Protection Act protects our Nation's archeological, cultural, and historic objects and sites for all U.S. citizens.

ARPA prohibits actual or attempted excavation, removal, damaging, altering, or defacement of archeological resources on public lands—including the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Reservations.

Simply searching for prehistoric, Colonial, Civil War, or any other kind of artifact with or without digging may be a crime.

Also, according to Army Regulation 200-4, the use of metal detectors to locate archeological sites on post is strictly prohibited.

Criminal penalties for ARPA violations include up to two years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000, restoration and repair costs plus the archeological value of the damaged (or destroyed) site, and the taking of all personal property utilized in the violation up to and including vehicles and metal detection equipment.

In addition, civil penalties may also be imposed. The federal court system strongly enforces ARPA and its related

statutes.

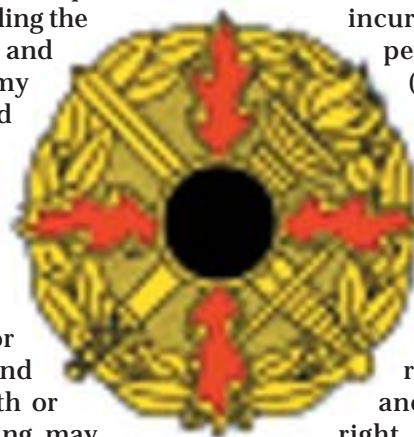
In addition to criminal penalties, some areas of the installation are contaminated with unexploded ordnance from over sixty years of supporting multiple active ranges—so be advised that unauthorized digging on the Reservation without the proper permits and safety checks will put you in harm's way!

Please do not risk incurring serious personal injury (through inadvertent detonation of UXO), a criminal record, financial penalties, losing your right to vote, and losing your right to possess firearms by looting artifacts from Fort Stewart or Hunter Army Airfield.

Obey these laws and respect the rich archeological and historical heritage on our Installations.

For more information on ARPA and related laws and regulations, contact DPW, Environmental Division, Cultural Resource Management at 767-0992.

**CONCERNED CITIZENS
HELP PROTECT OUR
NATION'S HERITAGE.
REPORT ANY CRIMES BY
CALLING CONSERVATION
LAW ENFORCEMENT
BRANCH AT 767-2353 OR
767-7577.**



Coastal Happenings

Courtesy of the Coastal Courier

VFW music

HINESVILLE - Next Friday, Jan. 26, the club will feature Outryder Band, starting at 9 p.m.

There's no cover and its open to the public, though you must be 21 to get into the lounge. The club on Highway 196 West. For more information, call 876-6602.

Concert to benefit Habitat

STATESBORO - Habitat for Humanity of Bulloch County will present its first benefit concert Friday, Jan. 26, featuring internationally known a cappella group, Rockapella.

Known to millions for its performances in the 1990s PBS television show *"Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego?"*

Rockapella performs a mix of original music and rock standards in a style that blends soul, rock, R & B and jazz. The concert will be held at the Performing Arts Center at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro. Tickets are \$28, and are on sale now at the box office or online.

Learn to dance

HINESVILLE - The Liberty County Armed Services Family YMCA began ballroom dance lessons this week.

Instructors Jamie Cooke and Kame Varnedoe will teach the basics with a Latin style influence. Classes are designed to be encouraging, motivating and fun. Ballroom dancing is a fantastic way to get into shape.

Regular schedule for classes will be from 7 to 8 p.m. for nine weeks, Feb. 1 through March 29. Registration costs \$90 dollars per couple for YMCA members, or \$144 for other couples. Childcare is available to non-members at the rate of \$3 dollars per child per hour. For more information call 368-5395.

Fashion Show at Church

SAVANNAH - The West Savannah Area Missionary Society presents a banquet and fashion show. The theme is "It's a New Season," The

event will take place at 6 p.m. Saturday Jan. 27 at Bethel A.M.E. Church, Frazier Burley Fellowship Hall, 233 Gause Street Hinesville. Donations: Adults \$15 dollars, children \$8 dollars. This event is being held to support activities of mission work. For more information contact Ollie Roberson at (912) 369-3839 or the church at (912) 369-2417

Post 321 holds fish fry

MIDWAY - East Liberty County American Legion Post 321 will host a fish fry Saturday and the public is invited. It will be from 3-6 p.m. at the Midway Museum on Highway 17. The cost is \$5 for a plate of fried fish, coleslaw and hush puppies. Cold drinks will also be available. The proceeds from this event will enable the post to assist veterans, the community and, now with the 3rd ID deploying overseas once more, the post will be in a position to assist the family members left behind. For more information, call Darryl Woodard at 884-7480 or A.J. Schmitt at 884-1730.

GSU arts season

STATESBORO — Here is the lineup for the 2006-07 season for the Performing Arts Center at Georgia Southern University:

- **Feb. 10** — The Capital Steps. Based in Washington, DC, this musical group is famous for its politically inspired and hilarious song parodies.

- **March 8** — Moscow Festival Ballet presents "Swan Lake." Founded by a member of the legendary Bolshoi Ballet, this troupe features the classic Russian style of ballet.

To buy a season subscription or get more information, call toll free (866) PAC-ARTS, or visit the PAC website at <http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/pac>.

Forestry pageants

FLEMINGTON - The Miss Liberty and Miss Long County Forestry Scholarship Pageants will be on Feb. 24 at Brewton-Parker College in

Flemington.

Contestants are being sought. The pageants are open to all contestants 0-16 years. Contestants ages 17-24 must live, work or go to school in the county they represent.

Both pageants are preliminaries to the Miss Georgia Forestry Scholarship Pageant. Winners will get gold crowns, custom sashes, trophies and entry fees paid to the 68th Miss Georgia Forestry State Scholarship Pageant in June in Tifton. The state pageant awards thousands of dollars in scholarships, cash and prizes each year.

Entries are available at Rita's Bridal and Formal Shop, 131 S. Main St., Hinesville.

For more information, call Rita Watson, director, at 368-6960 days or 876-2775 evenings, or e-mail long-forestry@yahoo.com or liberty-forestry@yahoo.com.

Art on isles

BRUNSWICK - Golden Isles Arts and Humanities Association is in its expanded 2006-07 Performing Arts Series at **Brunswick's historic Ritz Theatre** every month through April. **Here's the line-up:**

"The Sounds of Silents," multimedia weekend celebrating great film comics: Parallel Exit's "This Way, That Way" 8 p.m. Feb. 2; \$18 adults, \$15 students & seniors

Buster Keaton's *"Steamboat Bill Jr."* with live music by Kenosha Kid, 8 p.m. Feb. 3; Charlie Chaplin's *"The Kid"* with music by Kenosha Kid, 3 p.m. Feb. 4; both Kenosha Kid screenings for total \$18 adults, \$15 students & seniors

Weekend package price (all three shows) \$30 adults, \$24 students & seniors.

All shows are at the Ritz Theatre, 1530 Newcastle St., Brunswick. For information and tickets, call (912) 262-6934, or e-mail info@goldenislesarts.org or go online at www.goldenislesarts.org.

Brunswick-Glynn Library

The Brunswick-Glynn County Library is planning two literary

events:

"An Introduction to Flannery O'Connor," will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday Jan. 30. Sarah Gardner will talk about one of Georgia's greatest writers, Flannery O'Connor. Retired from Georgia College in Milledgeville, Sarah was the resident Flannery O'Connor scholar. She is also the author of "Flannery O'Connor: The Obedient Imagination."

"The Motive from the Deed," at 3 p.m. on Saturday Feb. 3. Patricia Wynn will talk about her latest book, *"The Motive from the Deed."* A mystery set in 1715 England, the book features Lady Oglethorpe and Fanny Oglethorpe as Jacobite spies. Patricia will discuss her research about the Oglethorpe family and how she weaves history into her award-winning mystery novels.

Both programs are free and open to the public. For more information call (912) 267-1212.

Gospel sing

RICHMOND HILL - The Gospel Lights present *"Old Time Gospel"* at 7 p.m., Jan. 27 at 1805 Cartertown Road in Richmond Hill. For more information contact Chris Howard at (912) 884-4050 or howard@coastalnow.net.

Learn to draw

HINESVILLE - Art classes sponsored by the Hinesville Area Arts Council will be on each fourth Saturday at the Liberty County YMCA. Next is Jan. 27. Children's classes are from 10 a.m.-noon and an adult classes, 1-4 p.m. The cost is \$12 for the children's class and \$20 for adults. Make reservations by calling 408-6380 or 408-6151.

Spaghetti dinner

HINESVILLE - Joseph Martin Elementary School presents the annual spaghetti dinner and first annual air band and lip sync contest. Join us for top-notch food and entertainment at 5 p.m. for take

out/pickup or from 5:30-7 p.m. for table serving. The event will take place on Feb. 5.

Advance tickets are \$6, and \$5 for children under 12. For more information, call 368-3114.

Mighty Eighth exhibit

POOLER — A short-term exhibit of some unique artifacts from the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum's archives displayed in late 2006 will be installed again in the museum's Rotunda from Jan. 26 through Feb. 4.

The Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum is at 175 Bourne Avenue in Pooler. The museum is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day. For more information, call 912-748-8888 or go to www.mightyeighth.org.

Savannah sidelights

SAVANNAH - The Savannah Department of Cultural Affairs has set its calendar. Events may change. Get more information online at www.savannahga.gov/arts.

Through Jan. 28

Exhibition: Andrée Ruellan at 100 presented by the Telfair Museum of Art. A talented American scene painter who worked in Savannah in the early 1940s.

Exhibition: Spirit of Mexico: Photographs by Bravo, Levitt and Perkis presented by the Telfair Museum of Art at the Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences, featuring works by the acclaimed Mexican photographer Manuel Alvarez Bravo, as well as imagery by Helen Levitt and Philip Perkis. Call (912) 790-8800 or visit www.telfair.org.

Sing your heart out

The Greater Georgia Choral Chapter is looking for people who love gospel music and who want to do more than just listen to it.

GGCC offers an opportunity to grow in the ministry of gospel music for adults and youth. Groups and individuals are welcome. Contact Wilma Gregg or Andre Gregg, at 368-4185.

FY06 Safety Report: 20-percent Reduction in Accident Fatalities

Army News Service

With the emphasis on safety by Army senior leaders, and the implementation of safety program improvements and initiatives targeted at leading accident factors, the Army achieved significant accident reductions in Fiscal Year 2006.

Details are highlighted in the Army's Fiscal Year 06 Annual Safety Report located online at <https://cra.army.mil/Report/Fy06yearend.doc>.

Over the last year, the Army safety approach resulted in a 20-percent reduction of accidental fatalities compared to the previous year, the first overall reduction in the past six years. Army officials say this approach is at the heart of safety transformation, applies knowledge and data from losses with the analysis of emerging or existing trends, allowing leadership and Army members the ability to reduce losses.

Senior leaders' engagement combined loss awareness and innovative programs and initiatives are the

major contributors to loss reduction, according to the annual Army safety performance report released this month.

"Today's all-volunteer Army is operating at a pace and level of excellence that far exceeds anything we've ever done before," said Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, chief of staff of the Army. "Maintaining this high level of performance requires dedicated leaders at all levels take the necessary actions to take care of Soldiers, civilians and their families. One of my top priorities is to ensure that safety measures are enforced and integrated into all operations."

"Furthermore, the American people have made a tremendous investment in their Army and we owe it to them to eliminate unnecessary losses due to accident or neglect. I strongly recommend that leaders use the year end safety review as a guide in setting and meeting future safety objectives," Schoomaker said.

"The Army achieved significant accident reductions in fiscal year 2006," said Addison D. Davis, IV, deputy

assistant secretary of the Army for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installations and Environment). "Our leaders, Soldiers and civilians at every level are to be congratulated for these accomplishments. But it is clear that much work remains if we are to sustain this level of success."

Fiscal 2006's reduction in loss, while seen as an improvement and success in the Army's transformation and safety culture change, is not the safety goal that the Army will focus on during fiscal 2007, Army officials say.

According to the Army Safety and Occupational Health Strategic Plan, the Army goal is to reduce accident rates by 75 percent by fiscal 2008, using fiscal 2002 as the baseline; guaranteeing safety will continue to be emphasized in the upcoming years as well.

For additional information the media may contact Mary Ann Hodges, Office of the Chief Army Public Affairs, call 703-697-4314.

Army announces Surface Deployment and Distribution Command change

Special to the Frontline

The U.S. Army recently designated Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command as an Army service component command to the U.S. Transportation Command and as a major subordinate command of the U.S. Army Materiel Command.

Army Materiel Command is the Army's designated single logistics integrator and assignment of Surface Deployment and Distribution Command to AMC enhances this role by leveraging deployment and distribution commonalities.

It also facilitates the joint distribution process consistent with joint logistics

concepts and provides SDDC with Army 4-star general officer oversight, which is consistent with the other service components of the United States Transportation Command.

This realignment places Army logistics capabilities (such as Research Development Test and Evaluation, acquisition, sustainment and deployment and distribution) under a single command without requesting additional resources.

Additionally, it provides synergies to the Army by leveraging commonalities, particularly in the areas of deployment and distribution, thus enhancing logistics support for the Army Force Generation process.

Major capabilities to be increased include providing AMC responsibility for all Army logistics capabilities and fostering closer ties between AMC and a key joint partner; USTRANSCOM.

The major advantages of assigning SDDC to AMC support the following emerging capabilities:

- Single Army integrator of logistics with joint and strategic partners.
- Coordination of the end-to-end distribution pipeline from a national sustainment base to deployed Theatre Support Commands.
- Providing command and control, training readiness oversight of assigned forces.

- Assisting Forces Command generation and rapid projection of trained and ready forces from Continental United States based to Regional Combatant Commander and reset of forces upon return to home station.

For operational purposes, SDDC will remain an Army Service Component Command as one of USTRANSCOM's three components which also include the U.S. Air Force's Air Mobility Command and the U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command.

For more information contact AMC Public Affairs Office at 703-806-8010, or SDDC Command Affairs at 703-428-3456.

Black History unfolds at Diamond Elementary

Diamond Elementary is sponsoring a traveling exhibition which commemorates the African American experience at the U.S. Capital. The curator, Felicia Bell will speak at 7:15 p.m. Feb. 6. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.. For more information visit www.usch.org.

Regional symposium visits local school

Special to the Frontline

In the second season of its Creative Minds lecture series, the Savannah Country Day School will host three experts in sustainability for a major symposium titled "Creating a Sustainable Future: Recognizing, Repairing and Restoring a Fractured World." The event featuring Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Bob

Berkebile, and Paul Dolan. The event is open 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 10 at the Trustees Theatre on Broughton Street in Savannah. Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased through the Trustees Theatre at 525-5050. Discounted tickets are available for students, teachers and military employees for \$10.

For more information, call 961-8828 or visit www.savcds.org.

Soldier struggles to gain U.S. citizenship

Kurt Wolfe

Hunter Public Affairs

December 13, 2006, was a day of very special significance for Spc. John Yasar, Company B, 603rd Aviation Support Battalion.

It was a chance for Yasar, a Turkish national, to finally meet and speak with several U.S. veterans, childhood heroes about whom, as a youth, he had only read. On that day, Soldiers from the 603rd Aviation Battalion took a two hour bus ride to the Carl Vinson Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Dublin, Ga.

Christmas gift baskets were distributed by Soldiers, and stories were shared with many veterans cared for at the hospital. For Yasar, it was a day of awe and inspiration — a day that served as a dramatic reminder of why he is a Soldier in the United States Army. It was a day that cemented his longtime resolve to become a citizen.

“I felt honored to be among such real life heroes,” Yasar said. “I met a man who had actually been at Pearl Harbor and another Soldier who had somehow survived the Bataan Death March. I was humbled.”

Yasar was born in Ankara, Turkey in 1977. His father (now passed) was a successful attorney, and his mother continues to work in Ankara as a high school teacher.

Together with his younger brother, they lived a comfortable life.

“Many in my family worked in the diplomatic corps and we were always very close to Americans,” Yasar said.

He recalls Ankara as a European-like city, with touches of a mystical east coupled with a 20th century university lifestyle.

As a child he looked to the skies and dreamt of flying a fighter jet, and in 1990, at age 14 he watched the Gulf War unfold on television. He knew then and there where his life would take him.

His dream of becoming a United States fighter pilot, and moreover, a United States citizen was now a goal.

Yasar researched each and every American state on his computer.

“I know it sounds silly, but I remember opening a family atlas to the United States, and drawing battleships and airplanes with “USA” painted on the sides.

Eventually he entered flight school. His dreams of being an American pilot were not met with enthusiasm by his friends, however.

As nationalism increased in Turkey, pro-American sentiments were not popular among students. So Yasar inquired into various flight schools in the United States.

Yasar gained a U.S. visa, and at age 23 packed up and moved to the States after being accepted by a flight school in Oklahoma.

That flight school, however, would gain unwelcome notoriety as one of the schools responsible for training several of the 9/11 hijackers.

This would signal just the beginning of some very difficult times for Yasar. After being taken in by a con man, he lost most of his savings, ultimately ending up in New Jersey just able to make ends meet.

The one good thing that happened in his life at this time occurred in August 2001. He met Joline, the woman he would soon marry.

But on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, his world, and the world around him changed forever.

As he looked to the skyline of New York City, he saw the billowing smoke from the World Trade Center from across the Hudson.

“I watched it and it was a crushing moment,” he remembers. “I am not afraid to say, I cried when I saw that.” The tragedy, however, cemented his resolve to become a citizen. “I really wanted to do something to get those who had done such a thing.”

Soon after, however, Yasar was profiled and questioned by federal authorities. He spent a total of 42 days in confinement and interrogation before he was ultimately cleared of any suspicion.

He bears no grudge in his confinement, understanding what lead to his questioning.

Despite being cleared by authorities, Yasar soon found himself once again questioned by the FBI after he ordered a flight

simulation tool for his computer over the internet.

He cooperated completely and was cleared yet again.

He noticed also at that time a distinct prejudice in the voice and tone of many around him, some who had been friends. It was largely, he says, because of his last name.

“It’s the way my name sounds. It looks like “Yassar,” as in Yasser Arafat. His last name is actually pronounced, “Yashur.” To help Americanize his name he chose not to use his first name, “Mehmet,” but rather his middle name, “Can,” pronounced “John.”

“I am always patient about people’s suspicions,” he acknowledges. “I understand it. I am just looking forward to the day when I swear allegiance and become a citizen. I’m going to drop my first two names and use the name John. I am tired of all the problems. It would be easy to just give up, but I have dreams and I have to accomplish them. Nothing is going to stop that.”

In December 2001 Yasar and Joline were married. Born a Sunni Muslim, Yasar converted to Eastern Orthodox Christianity.

He moved to Rapid City, S.D., with his wife and lived literally near the inspirational visage of Mount Rushmore.

Yasar found it nearly impossible to find employment, so he worked through his church for nearly two years assisting in various Christian charities.

As the years passed his ability to get into the Air Force diminished.

“The dream kept me alive during all of those hard years, but I had to let it go,” he said.

Yasar researched the Warrant Officer program in the Army and his dream to become an aviator was reborn.

“It was a perfect opportunity,” Yasar said.

He studied and tested with high scores.

In May 2005 he enlisted and qualified as a weapons technician armament/electrical/avionic systems repairer on Apache attack helicopters. He served for a year in Korea before ending up at Hunter.

To become a pilot, Yasar



Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Mills

Private 1st Class Chris Olson and Spc. John Yasar, Co. B, 603rd ASB, n right helps distribute gift baskets to veterans at the Carl Vinson Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Dublin, Georgia.

requires a secret clearance, and that requires U.S. citizenship.

As an active-duty servicemember, residency requirements are waived.

His hope now is to achieve citizenship prior to a possible future deployment.

Jason believes he qualifies but his application is not yet approved.

Three letters of support have been sent on his behalf by his Army superiors.

Yasar has been advised that he could sue immigration to move the process along, but suing a

country he loves goes completely against his nature.

Until then, he waits, patiently, knowing that he has the support of all those around him.

“Specialist Yasar identifies himself as an American, and that’s what he is to us – an American citizen,” said Yasar’s platoon leader, Chief Warrant Officer Francisco Vargas, Co. B, 603rd Aviation Support Battalion.

“He exemplifies the character of a U.S. citizen and the character of an outstanding Army Soldier.” He is one of us. He is an American.”

Hunter Soldier loses belongings in house fire

Master Sgt. Rodney Williams
3rd Sust. Bde. PAO

A devastating house fire resulted in a total loss of belongings for a Soldier and his family living in Savannah Jan. 5.

Grant Hough, his wife April, who is seven months pregnant, and his three young boys were not hurt.

"The first thought I had was about my kids," Hough said when he first saw there was fire in his home. "I needed to make sure everyone was okay."

Hough is assigned to the 512th Quartermaster Company, 260th Quartermaster Battalion based at Hunter Army Airfield.

"We don't have a (standard operating procedure) for this. This is not something that we deal with on a daily basis," said Capt. Steve Koehler, 512th company commander. "Right now we are just trying to get them the essentials. Get the kids back in school. Get clothes on their back and a roof over their head."

The unit has taken care of the family's food, lodging and clothes for the immediate future.

"We've (512th Qm. Co.) also set up a custodial fund for them at Wachovia Bank under Specialist Hough's name that anybody can donate to," added Koehler.

"My entire chain of command has been very supportive during this whole tough situation," added Hough.

Not only has the unit been very supportive with several contributions, but other agencies and individuals have helped to ease the burden of this tragic loss.

"The Red Cross was amazing," said Hough's wife, April. "The house was still burning and the Red Cross was already here. They helped us out with some food and clothing and got us into a hotel for that first weekend."

Things are looking up for Hough and his family, though — after residing for a week in the Hunter Lodging facility, they recently signed for brand new on-post quarters. Still, the majority



Master Sgt. Rodney Williams

Spc. Grant Hough, 512th Qm. Co, 260th Qm. Bn., looks at the wreckage and damage caused by a house fire. Hough's household belongings were destroyed. The fire's origin is still under investigation.

of what was lost may never be replaced.

"So very, very few things are salvageable as a result of this fire,"

Hough said. "I was able to find my photo album which had some pictures of me around the Christmas tree.

"It makes me feel good that I found it," he added. "That's not just my photo album, it's my whole family's photo album."



Avn officers earn CW5 rank

Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Mills

Family members pin Chief Warrant Officer 5th Class rank on the shoulders of Chief Warrant Officer Chris Batt (left) and Chief Warrant Officer Randy Kirgiss, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, during a ceremony at the CAB headquarters on Hunter Army Airfield Friday. Attaining the rank of CW5 is considered an immense accomplishment since there are fewer CW5s in the Army than there are general officers.

Marne/Hunter Tax Center

A free service

Eligible for Service: Soldiers, their family members and retirees.

A dedicated and trained staff is ready to prepare and file your tax return at **NO CHARGE**. Your tax return is filed electronically and you will receive your refund within seven to ten days.

Hunter
Building 1211 (Hunter Legal Center)
315-3875

Marne

Located in building 9811 (National Guard Training Area).
Proceed on Hampton Ave. next to WVA Army Community Hospital. Take 10th St. traveling away from the hospital. Take a left on Worcester Ave. and it is the first building on the left. 757-35848038

Open Feb. 5 - Apr. 16
8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.



Documents to bring
(If they apply to you)

- W-2 for all wages received
- military ID (self & spouse)
- SSN for member, spouse & dependents
- Power of attorney
- Last year's tax return
- Proof of dependent care expenses
- Interest income statement
- IRAP/TEP Contributions
- Dividend Income
- Educator Expenses
- State Income Tax Refund
- Charitable Contributions
- Property Taxes paid
- Home Mortgage Interest Statement
- Student Loan Interest Statement
- Proof of educational expenses
- HUD (if purchased a home in 2006)
- Capital Gains & Losses

CLIF Notes

Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith

Army Education Center

Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield

<http://www.stewart.army.mil/ima/sites/services/education/education.asp>

Georgia HOPE Grant:

The HOPE Grant is money given by the state of Georgia to students with financial need to attend vocational/trade schools. The Grant covers certificate and diploma programs. Any Soldier or family member of a Soldier who is stationed in Georgia may be eligible. Inquire with your school's financial advisor or visit the Army Education Center to speak with a counselor for more information.

MGIB Transferability to Spouses

The Secretary of the Army has approved the transfer of

up to 18 months of MGIB benefits to spouses as a pilot program. Eligible Soldiers must have enrolled in MGIB on DD Form 2366 upon entry to active duty. If you cannot locate your DD Form 2366 check your official Military Personnel File or go online to Army Knowledge Online for details. Your Education Counselor can assist you with information about your MGIB benefits only. Please contact your Retention Career Counselor for details.

Free SAT & ACT Test Prep Software!

The Victory Sports Group of professional football players is sponsoring test prep software for military families. There will be a small shipping charge for delivery. The sponsorship code is 2ad9c5ccfd for *http://sat.eknowledge.com/purchase_coupon.asp*.

Stewart Military Family Member Scholarship Fund

Merit-based scholarships for deserving family members of all active, retired or deceased military of the Stewart/Hunter communities. Applications at the SFC Paul R Smith Army Education Center. Deadline 14 March 2007.

Spouse Education Assistance Program

The AER Stateside Spouse Education Assistance Program is for spouses of active duty and retired Soldiers, and widow(ers) of Soldiers who died either on active duty or in a retired status, and are residing in the United States. "Active Duty" military personnel are not eligible. Deadline is March 1.

One hour = \$4500

All Active Duty members have \$4500 per fiscal year for education! This entitlement is separate from the Montgomery GI Bill benefits available from the Veteran's Administration. Details are available Mon. – Fri. at 1:30 p.m. during a one-hour brief at the Education Center, Room 188. The *www.goarmyed.com* website provides 24/7 virtual access to Soldiers. Our education counselors are always available to assist in educational goal setting and advising.

Testing Update

Columbia College is now providing our Testing services. More than 70 CLEPs and DSSTs are computer based for

immediate results. CLEP/DSST Testing is FREE to Soldiers and costs vary from \$80 to \$100 per test for civilians. Columbia will also be the Test Proctor for all college Distance Learning tests (verify \$20 fee upon registration). Please call 767-7558 or 877-3406 for more information.

Learning Center Hours

We have computers with Internet access available – complete your homework or research for your classes, access the Army's basic skills automated program, "Lifetime Library" or just stop in to check your e-mail. We are open 7 days a week (closed on Federal Holidays): Building 100, Room 230 (Mon. – Thur. 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Fri. 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sat. – Sun. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.).

FREE College Tutoring

Savannah Technical College is offering tutoring in a variety of subjects, including Math, English, Business, etc. Tutoring is available Mon. – Wed. from 4-6 p.m. in the Army Education Center. Please call 408-3024 for more information.